

Richard Kennard

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Career Summary

Richard is a highly qualified, senior software architect and engineer with extensive experience of the complete software development life cycle across a broad range of technologies. He brings an intelligent approach to software development, combining his attentiveness to client needs with his passion for delivering a first class product.

Academically, Richard:

- won Australasian PhD Thesis of the Year¹.
- has been published across multiple academic journals and papers. His work has been presented at international conferences and cited by other researchers.
- holds an Honours Degree in Computer Science from the University of Nottingham.
- received the University Award for Highest Academic Achievement in his field.

Professionally, Richard:

- has developed software for all types of organisations, from local business to multi-national corporations in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia.
- has clients including some of the largest financial institutions in Australia and the United States, and one of the leading enterprise middleware vendors in the world.
- founded Metawidget, an Open Source library to assist developers building UIs.

Richard is also an active member of the software community. He:

- won Hackagong 2014
- served on the Expert Group for Context and Dependency Injection (JSR-299), a specification to unify Java Web application development.
- has spoken at high profile conferences such as JavaOne and Red Hat Summit, as well as local Java and JavaScript User Groups.

Summary of Technical Skills

Skill	Proficiency
Java Technologies <i>including Java SE, Java EE, JBoss, Metawidget</i>	Expert
Web Technologies <i>including HTML 5, JavaScript, XML, XSL-T, and XSL-FO</i>	Expert
General Software Development <i>including the SDLC, Object Oriented Analysis and Design, Functional programming and Agile development</i>	Expert

Qualifications

<i>PhD</i> (2007-2012)	PhD in Software Engineering University of Technology, Sydney, Australia <i>Won Australasian PhD Thesis of the Year</i>
<i>Degree</i> (1993 – 1997)	B.Sc. (Hons) Computer Science University of Nottingham, United Kingdom <i>Awarded first place out of all students</i>

¹ <http://newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/02/uts-graduate-wins-phd-thesis-of-2012>

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Professional Experience

Kennard Consulting

Software Consultants

Partner

April 2004 to 2016 (present)

I have worked as an independent software consultant for the past 12 years, establishing myself as one of the most accomplished² developers in Sydney. I have consulted for some of the largest financial institutions in Australia, and one of the leading enterprise vendors in the world. My work has received awards from both industry and the research community. My clients have included (dates are in brackets, and are concurrent):

- **[Wealth Report](#) (2 years, 2014-2016)**: founded, designed and built a hybrid Web application to help Australians understand their current finances and project scenarios for their future. Worked with corporate leaders and actuaries to develop an industry-leading modelling engine using Java EE and REST for the back-end and an innovative gamified front-end using AngularJS, KineticJS, Grunt, Bower, Bootstrap and Stylus.
- **Avant Solutions (7 years, 2006-2013)**: built a financial Web application to process and generate highly personalised superannuation reports for over two million members across Australia. To scale to the required volumes, the application was clustered across multiple servers around Australia. Our product won several industry awards including the ASFA Communication Award; Rainmaker Excellence Award and the CANSTAR Innovation Award. Clients included AMP, CBA and MLC.
- **IAG (6 months, 2015)**: worked with IAG's existing team to help complete their Online Business Insurance project. Used Agile methodologies such as Scrum, Iterative Development, Test Driven Development and Pair Programming to create an AngularJS-based, HTML 5 front-end.
- **Red Hat (6 months, 2011)**: worked with the JBoss senior engineering team on their Rapid Application Development (RAD) tools for Web and mobile. Led the UI Scaffolding and Generation for JBoss Forge, using technologies such as JSF, RichFaces and Freemarker. Acted as a prototype researcher for JBoss AeroGear, using technologies such as Android, Bootstrap, HTML 5 and JQuery Mobile.
- **Thomson Reuters (2 years, 2006-2008 and 1 year, 2012)**: modernized Thomson Reuters' web-based legal and regulatory products. Created their new editorial and publishing platform using Java EE, XSL-T, XSL-FO and Cocoon. Upgraded their existing offerings to Facelets, Bean Validator, JPA, JAAS, JBoss 6.
- **[Metawidget](#) (8 years, 2008-2016)**: founded the Open Source middleware library, Metawidget. Metawidget assists the creation of robust User Interfaces across multiple technologies including: GWT, JavaScript, Spring MVC, Swing, SWT and Vaadin on the front-end; Groovy, JSON, REST and Scala on the back-end. Managed community contributions across SourceForge and GitHub, SVN and Git. Conducted Behaviourally Driven Development (BDD) using Jasmine, Rhino and Selenium.

² Won PhD of the Year; founded own Open Source project; worked on the Java EE spec, won Hackagong 2014

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Professional Experience (continued)

Metawidget has enjoyed considerable success. Leading technology vendors such as JBoss and Palantir have built their products on top of it. Major organisations such as the Spanish National Health System and the European Space Agency have deployed production systems using it. Academic institutions have awarded Metawidget PhD of the Year, citing its "fundamental contributions to computer science".

- **Contexts and Dependency Injection (CDI) (3 years, 2006-2009)**: the Java platform evolves through a standards body called the JCP. This body carefully selects experts from around the world to form Expert Groups, tasked with defining the future of the Java platform. I was chosen for Expert Group 299. I served alongside senior representatives from Red Hat, Google and Oracle to deliver a groundbreaking, and at times controversial, feature set. IBM described it as "an ambitious task". It was a resounding success, and today forms a cornerstone of the Java EE platform, adopted by all major vendors.
- **Workplace Diagnostics (4 years, 2006-2010)**: built a SurveyMonkey-style web application for local and regional councils. The types of surveys, questions and reporting all needed to be highly flexible and configurable, requiring technologies such as PhantomJS, Hibernate, MySQL, XML, XSL-T, MariaDB, JUnit and Test Driven Development (TDD) methodologies. Managed the project using JIRA, Jenkins, Sonar, Maven and other technologies.
- **Visible Results (2 years, 2005-2007)**: delivered an intranet-based Customer Relationship Management and workflow system using C#, ASP.NET, NHibernate, NAnt, IIS and SQL Server.

Count Financial

Financial Advice Network

Manager of Software Development

August 2003 to June 2005

Managed all stages of the Software Development Life Cycle: analysis of requirements, research, budgeting, feasibility studies of tools, design, prototyping, task assignment, recruitment, team co-ordination, programming, testing, installation and demonstration. Produced documentation for project proposals, team procedures and board papers. Pioneered new technologies and best practices across the department, including:

- Iterative Development and a regular release cycle
- Transitioning from a 2-tier VB6 to a proprietary n-tier, IoC-based .NET architecture
- Job tracking and release management (Perforce)
- Automated regression testing (QA Wizard) and code reviews (VB Law)

Cards etc

Smartcard Management Systems

Senior Software Engineer

February 2001 to August 2003

Worked on the development of Arterium, the company's flagship smartcard management system, across a variety of projects, including:

- IDE and Software Development Kit (Swing/JFC), enabling third-parties to develop business-specific modules running atop our core product

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Professional Experience (continued)

- Open source Post Issuance Download ‘reference implementation’ (JSP/Struts/JDBC and Apache SOAP, together with Ant and JUnit), and accompanying documentation
- Architecture, look and feel, and internationalisation of the User Interface (JavaScript/HTML pages rendered dynamically by an XSL stylesheet parsing a platform and language-neutral XML screen definition language)

First American Lenders Advantage

Title Insurance

Manager of Software Development

October 1998 to April 2000

Managed all stages of the SDLC. Interviewed and grew the department from two to twenty (six system architects, three database administrators, five client managers and six network engineers). Successfully completed a variety of software projects, from one-day, one-man tasks to three-year, large-scale applications. In particular developed WinTrack, a suite of applications built around multiple, linked SQL Server databases (each centralised and localised for their respective country, state in the U.S., or licensed partner), incorporating:

- a large-scale Visual Basic client for employees, partitioned into multiple ActiveX components, downloading pieces of itself on-the-fly from the company Intranet (via CAB files), dependant on which areas of the application were used
- an MTS/IIS/ASP/JavaScript Web-based thin client for customers
numerous electronic links to third-party systems and institutions, employing a broad range of interoperability methodologies, including DCOM, EDI, XML and MMQ

Cityware

Application Consultants

Senior Consultant

April 1998 to October 1998

Covered businesses around Southern California consulting on Internet-based solutions.

Computer Solutions

Web Application Developers

Software Engineer

June 1997 to April 1998

Developed web sites and e-commerce solutions using a variety of technologies for a broad range of clients, from small shops (predominantly employing our proprietary SQL Server/Cold Fusion/CyberCash architecture) to multi-national corporations.

References

References provided upon request. In addition, much of my work can be reviewed online:

- some of my finest software development work is Open Sourced at <http://metawidget.org>
- my PhD thesis is downloadable from <http://hdl.handle.net/2100/1305> (winner of Australasian Thesis of the Year)
- videos from my speaking engagements are available at <http://blog.kennardconsulting.com/2011/12/metawidget-javaone-2011-jboss-booth.html>
- my blog, Twitter feed, full listing of commercial clients, academic citations and industry awards are viewable at <http://kennardconsulting.com>